

NEWCASTLE EMLYN RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Sanitary Conditions of the
Newcastle Emlyn Rural District
for the Year
1970

BY

ELFYN T. JONES

B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

PREFACE

To the Chairman and Members of the Newcastle Emlyn Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

It affords me much pleasure to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1970, and to state that the health of the population remained at a satisfactory level.

I wish to gratefully acknowledge the work carried out by my staff and to thank the Members of the Public Health Committee and the Council for the wholehearted manner in which they have supported me. I also wish to thank my colleagues and their staff for their continued support and help.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient Servant,

ELFYN T. JONES

Medical Officer of Health

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Clerk of the Council and Chief Executive Officer ... S. J. DAVIES

Medical Officer of Health ... Dr. ELFYN T. JONES, B.Sc.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Official Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health :
Public Health Department, 3, Spilman Street, Carmarthen.
Telephone Number : Carmarthen 5131.

Public Health Inspector ... R. F. JONES, M.A.P.H.I.

Surveyor ... E. L. THOMAS

Deputy Clerk of the Council ... W. D. DAVIES

Rate Collector ... E. D. JONES

Consultant Architect ... W. S. P. COTTRELL

Consultant Engineers ... Messrs. PARRY, LEWIS &
PARTNERS.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Newcastle Emlyn Rural District, a large portion of which lies in the beautiful Vale of Teify, covers an area of 82,842 acres, and extends from Cenarth in the north west to Llanyerwys in the east. The district is divided into eight Parishes, viz :- Cenarth, Llangeler, Llanfihangel-ar-Arth, Llanllwni, Llanfihangel Rhos-y-Corn, Llanybyther, Llanyerwys and Pencarreg. As expected in a rural area of this nature farming is the basic industry, with the emphasis on dairy farming.

The mid-year home population as estimated by the Registrar-General for 1970 is 8,010.

For Registration purposes the area is divided into the following two Registration Sub-Districts :—

Cenarth
Llanybyther

The Rateable value of the area is £135,256, the sum represented by a Penny Rate £510 and the number of inhabited houses at the end of the year according to the Rate Book is 3,186.

Public Swimming Baths :

There are no public swimming baths in the area of the rural district.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births :

				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	52	51	103
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	4	5
				—	—	—
				53	55	108
				—	—	—

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated home population ... 13.5

Still-Births :

Number	...	...	...	—	2	2
Rates per 1,000 total live and still births						18.0
Rate per 1,000 estimated home population						0.25

Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)

There were no infant deaths.

Maternal Mortality :

No maternal death occurred in the area during the year.

Deaths (All Ages) :	M	F	Total
Deaths	77	54	131
Death rate per 1,000 of the population	...	16.4	

Comparison of rates with those for England and Wales :

	<i>Newcastle Emlyn R.D.</i>	<i>England & Wales</i>
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	... 13.5	16.0
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	... 18.0	13.0
Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births	... 0.0	18.0
Deaths (All Ages) Rate per 1,000 population	... 16.4	11.7

Death rate (comparability factor 0.88) = 14.4

Live Birth rate (comparability factor 1.19) = 16.0

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS 1970

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	...	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm—Oesophagus	...	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	...	4	3	7
Malignant Neoplasm—Intestine	...	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	...	2	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	...	—	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	...	—	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm—Prostate	...	2	—	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	...	6	5	11
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	...	1	1	2
Hypertensive Disease	...	—	1	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	...	25	14	39
Other Forms of Heart Disease	...	4	5	9
Cerebrovascular Disease	...	14	5	19
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	3	2	5
Influenza	...	—	1	1
Pneumonia	...	1	—	1
Bronchitis and Emphysema	...	1	1	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	1	—	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	...	—	2	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	...	2	—	2
Other diseases Genito-Urinary System	...	2	—	2
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	...	1	—	1
Congential Anomalies	...	1	—	1
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	...	1	4	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	1	—	1
All Other Accidents	...	1	2	3
Suicide and Self Inflicted Injuries	...	2	—	2
		—	—	—
		77	54	131
		—	—	—

Deaths in Age Groups :

1— 4 years—3	45—54 years— 7
15—24 years—1	55—64 years—27
25—34 years—1	65—74 years—36
35—44 years—2	75+ —54

NEW CASES OF, AND MORTALITY FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1970

<i>Age Period in Years</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non- Respiratory</i>		<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non- Respiratory</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
65—74 	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER—NOTIFICATIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non- Respiratory</i>		<i>Totals</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Number of cases on the Register, 1/1/70	7	10	3	—	10	10
Number of cases notified for the first time during the year 	1	—	—	1	1	1
Number of transfers from other areas during the year 	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year 	2	1	—	—	2	1
Number of cases remaining on the Register as at 31/12/70 	6	9	3	1	9	10

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Hospital, Laboratory and Ambulance Facilities :

The district is served mainly by the West Wales General Hospital, Carmarthen and Cardigan Hospital, with provision for cases of infectious diseases at the West Wales Isolation Hospital, Upper Tumble, Nr. Llanelli. Cases of mental disease receive treatment at St. David's Hospital, Carmarthen.

Clinics for the treatment of Venereal Diseases are held at the West Wales General Hospital, Glangwili, Carmarthen. Free treatment may be obtained at these clinics under conditions of secrecy and confidence. The clinics are held as follows :—

Males and Females—First and third Friday in each month—2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Bacteriological and pathological investigations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory and the Pathological Department at the West Wales General Hospital, Glangwili, Carmarthen, and the resources of these laboratories are always available to medical practitioners.

Ambulance facilities, including facilities for the transport of sitting car cases, are under the control of the County Council.

Chiropody Service

(a) The County Council have established chiropody clinics at Pencader and Llanybyther.

(b) Voluntary organisations have established clinics at Llangeler, Pontwelly and Velindre.

Home Nursing Services :

The area is served by :

Five District Nurses in the direct employ of the County Council at Pencader, Llanybyther, Velindre, Newcastle Emlyn and an area relief.

Child Health Clinics :

There are five child health clinics in the area—Brechfa, Cwmann, Llanybyther, Pencader and Velindre.

Ante-Natal Clinics :

There are no Ante-Natal Clinics in the area.

The Care of Unmarried Mothers and their Children :

Arrangements are made for unmarried mothers to be admitted to one of the following hostels : Northlands, Cardiff ; Cwmdonkin Shelter, Swansea ; The Llandaff Diocesan Moral Welfare Committee Hostel, Penarth or the St. Martin's Home, Hereford. These arrangements are made by the County Council and also the St. David's Diocesan Moral Welfare Committee.

National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951 :

Section 47 of the 1948 Act.

Towards the end of the year the Council resolved that an Application be made to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order to remove one aged female to a suitable Home or Institution and this was granted on 5th January, 1971.

SCHOOLS

The Local Education Authority is the County Council. There are 16 Primary Schools within the Rural area. No schools were closed on account of infectious diseases during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious Diseases notified during the year were as follows :-

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Measles	25	21	46
Infective Jaundice	2	1	3
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	—	1
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	—	1	1

Distribution of the above cases into Parishes

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Infective Jaundice</i>	<i>Respiratory Tuberculosis</i>	<i>Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis</i>
Llangeler	—	—	1	1
Llanyerwys	1	—	—	—
Pencarreg	45	3	—	—

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Statistics relating to vaccination and immunisation during the year for the County as a whole, given by the County Medical Officer of Health, are as follows :—

(i) Smallpox

<i>Age at date of Vaccination</i>	<i>Number Vaccinated</i>	<i>Number Revaccinated</i>
Under 1 years	63	—
1 year	847	—
2—4 years	118	12
5—15 years	39	52

(ii) Vaccination of persons under 16

	Born 1970	Born 1969	Born 1968	Born 1967	Born 1963—1966	Others —16	Boosters
Triple Antigen	849	509	47	18	28	7	808
Diphtheria/ Tetanus	5	7	1	1	11	6	474
Tetanus	1	1	2	1	14	93	172
Polio (Sabin)	872	507	61	22	34	11	629
Measles	3	119	123	81	132	23	—
Rubella	—	—	—	—	—	27	—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT AND REGULATIONS

The Food and Drugs Authority for the area is the County Council. Mr. E. G. Nicholls, Chief Inspector of the County Council, reports as follows on work done during the year in the area of the Newcastle Emlyn Rural District under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and the various Regulations and Orders made thereunder :—

Total number of samples of food-stuffs and drugs submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis for compositional quality and purity				67
Informal samples of Milk tested for compositional quality by the Food and Drugs Inspectors				24
Informal samples of Alcoholic Spirits tested by the Food and Drugs Inspectors				8
Milk samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Glangwili for bacteriological examination, etc.				55
				154

Milk samples submitted to the Public Analyst

Number Submitted	50
Certified to be genuine	43
Slightly deficient in Non-fatty-solids due to natural causes	6
Contained Extraneous Water	1

One milk sample, procured from a producer-retailer, was certified to contain 4% extraneous water. The total quantity of milk retailed was small and the adulteration appeared to be due to insufficient care in draining the utensils used for milking and the milk pipeline system. After careful consideration of all the circumstances, it was decided to issue a warning to the supplier concerned on this occasion.

Informal samples of Milk

Twenty-four informal samples of milk taken at schools and other establishments were tested by the Food and Drugs Inspectors. One sample was found to be slightly deficient in Non-fatty-solids, whereas, the remaining twenty-three samples were genuine in both fat and non-fatty-solids content.

Miscellaneous Foodstuffs and Drugs

Of the seventeen samples submitted to the Public Analyst, fifteen were reported to be satisfactory in composition and to comply with the appropriate labelling requirements. The remaining two samples were reported to be unsatisfactory and particulars of these samples are as follows :—

<i>Description of Sample</i>	<i>Nature of Deficiency or irregularity</i>
Baking Powder	Contained excess residual Carbon Dioxide.
Instant Coffee	Slightly deficient in Caffeine content

The manufacturers of these two unsatisfactory samples were warned.

Alcoholic Spirits

Eight informal samples of alcoholic spirits were taken at licensed premises and were tested by the Food and Drugs Inspectors. The samples consisted of :— three each of Whisky and Gin ; One each of Brandy and Vodka. All samples were found to be satisfactory.

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963 & 1965

Fifty-five samples of milk were taken from licensed milk-dealers and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Glangwili, for examination for bacteriological quality, etc. The results of the tests carried out on these samples were as follows :—

Pasteurised Milk

Forty samples of Pasteurised Milk were taken and all of them were reported to have satisfied both the phosphatase test for adequacy of heat treatment and the Methylene Blue Test for bacteriological quality.

Untreated Milk

Satisfied the Methylene Blue Test	...	...	...	...	...	12
Failed the Methylene Blue Test	...	...	...	...	...	2
						—
						14
						—

Ultra Heat Treated Milk

One sample was taken and was satisfactory under the prescribed Colony Count test. The fourteen samples of Untreated Milk were also examined for Brucella abortus infection. Two samples gave positive results under the Brucella Ring test but Brucella abortus was not isolated in either sample under the follow up culture test.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The Council's Surveyor reports as follows :—

Water Supply

During the year, the need for augmenting existing sources again became apparent. Supplies were found to be adequate during normal periods but inadequate during the comparatively dry summer or due to serious leakages. The areas mostly affected where it became increasingly difficult to meet the demand were at certain parts of Llangeler, Pencader and Cwmanne, and in order to maintain supplies arrangements were made with the Cardiganshire Water Board for bulk supplies. A link was made with the Board's main at Llanybyther Bridge, arranged to supply the lower part of the village only and it was therefore possible to improve on the supplies at Cwmanne, normally being supplied from the Llanybyther source. The deficiency of supplies in the Llangeler area became more acute during the year as it was found necessary to discontinue the use of one of the springs at Ffynnon Orfa and it was arranged that a connection be made to the Board's mains at Henllan Bridge.

During the year, further efforts were made to proceed with the following schemes :-

1. Dolwen Water Scheme—in order to augment the existing Upper Penboyr and East Cilrhedyn Scheme.
2. The Tafarn Jem Scheme to be linked with the Cardiganshire Water Board trunk main at Lampeter which would provide a supply of water for the first time to farms and dwellings in the higher reaches of Tafarn Jem and to augment the existing supplies from Llanybyther to Cwmanne.

The Authority was of the opinion that the above-mentioned schemes should proceed with the least possible delay so that adequate supplies be made available in the higher reaches of the district.

Agreement was reached during 1970 for the Authority's Water Undertaking to become members of the Cardiganshire Water Board and arrangements were made to enable the transfer to take effect on the 1st April, 1971.

The following small extension schemes were completed during the year :-

1. Cilfod to Penlan, Cenarth, involving the renewing of a small bore extension carried out many years ago with a 3 inch asbestos main.
2. Renewing approximately 300 yards of an existing 1½ inch galvanised main to a larger 3 inch diameter asbestos main at Rhydygalfé, Pontwelly, in order to improve supplies at Pentrecourt.
3. Relaying of an existing 3 inch main at Pont Felinfach, Cwmanne following a road improvement scheme.
4. An extension of approximately 160 yards to provide a supply to a new Fibre Glass works at Llanybyther.
5. A scheme to improve on the inadequate supplies to properties and to a Saw Mills at Maesycrugiau.
6. An extension to provide for the first time a supply to Godremamog, Capel Iwan.

The following samples of water were taken and sent for bacteriological examination:—

<i>Private Samples</i>	3 Satisfactory	3 Unsatisfactory
<i>Public Samples</i>	13 Satisfactory	7 Unsatisfactory

Four of the unsatisfactory public samples were taken from the source at Fynnon Orfa, Llangeler, but the use of this Spring was discontinued when a connection was made to the Cardiganshire Water Board supply at Henllan Bridge.

27 small bore water tapings were made during the year.

Main connections were provided for the Council Housing Site at Geryllan, Velindre, and for the extension to the Housing Sites at Trewern, Llangeler, Rhydybont, Llanybyther and Bryndulais, Llanllwni.

3 new connections were linked to Public Sewers.

80 Cesspools/Septic Tanks were emptied during the year comprising of 56 Private and 24 Council.

The Council's Public Health Inspector reports as follows :—

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

No new schemes came into operation during the year.

Improvement Grants

Seven Standard Grants and Eleven Discretionary Grants were paid in respect of improvements carried out. Twenty-eight Discretionary Grants and fifteen standard grants were approved.

Rent Act, 1957

Certificates of Disrepair

No Certificates of Disrepair were issued during the year.

Refuse Collection

New routes were prepared for the refuse collection vehicles. All parts of the district now receive a once weekly collection service, and the larger villages receive a twice weekly service.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Record of Visits for 1970 :—

Nature of Visit or Inspection					No. of Visits
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	30
Drainage	...	...	...	...	54
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	2
Movcable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	—
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	40
Refuse Collection & Disposal	...	...	...	...	52
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	10
Schools	...	...	...	...	—
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	10

Housing

Under Public Health Acts

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	10
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	10

Under Housing Acts

Number of Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	66
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	66

Overcrowding

Number of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	—
Visits paid to above houses	...	...	...	...	—

Verminous Premises

Number of houses inspected	4
Visits paid to above houses	10

Miscellaneous Housing Visits

...	—
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Infectious Diseases

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Diseases	3
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	—

Meat and Food Inspection

Inspection of Meat and Meat Shops

Number of Slaughterhouses in area	...	...	1
Number of visits to above Slaughterhouse		...	300
Number of visits to Shops and Stalls	...	...	16
Number of visits to Butchers	...	...	2

Ice-Cream Premises

Number of visits for purposes of inspection and sampling	...	...	...	—
Number of Ice-Cream Manufacturers in area	...	...	...	—
Number of Ice-Cream Retailers in area	...	...	...	44

Milk Samples—Brucella Abortus

Number of Samples of raw milk examined and number found positive	...	—
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The Food and Drugs Act, 1955

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

During the year the Public Health Inspector made numerous visits to various food premises in the area and with the co-operation of the owners and occupiers concerned every effort is being made to maintain the highest possible standard of hygiene.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

Number of egg pasteurisation plants in the district	...	Nil
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Poultry Processing Premises

Number of poultry processing premises in the district	...	Nil
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Foodstuffs condemned by the Public Health Inspector at Shops, etc. (excluding the Slaughterhouse) :

Approx. 300 lbs. Canned Foodstuffs—Defective cans.

Condemned foodstuffs are disposed of by burial on the Refuse Disposal Site.

HOUSING

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	172
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	250
(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respect reasonably fit for human habitation	25

Houses Demolished

In Clearance Areas	Nil
Not in Clearance Areas	Nil

Unfit Houses Closed

Under Sections 16(4), 17(1), and 35(1) Housing Act 1957 and Section 26 Housing Act, 1961	2
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Unfit Houses made Fit

After informal action by Local Authority :

By Owner	2
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Rodent Control

A specialist rodent operator is not employed by the Authority ; the work being done by a member of the Housing Repair staff on a part-time basis.

Slaughterhouse Facilities and Meat Inspection

There is one private slaughterhouse in the district which is situated in the village of Llanybyther. In accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, all food animals slaughtered were examined by the Public Health Inspector and the carcasses passed fit for human consumption marked with an identifying stamp.

The following table summarises the amount of carcasses and offal inspected and condemned at the Slaughterhouse :—

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Number Inspected 	345	5452	15,556	210	1
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned	26	39	28	—	—
Carcasses of which some part was condemned	166	3	1,051	—	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	55%	0.8%	14%	—	—

Details of Meat Condemned at the Slaughterhouse :-

Approximately 4,000 lbs. Bovine Offal due to Parasitic infections, angioma, pleurisy, pneumonia etc.

Approximately 5,000 lbs. of other offal for similar reasons.

Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

Duties of the Sanitary Authority under the Factories Act have been carried out by the Public Health Inspector as part of his routine work, and a close liaison has been maintained with the District Inspector of Factories.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	37	7	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	37	7	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which defects were found :—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
(1)	(2)	(3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	(6)
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	Nil	1	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	1	1	Nil	1	Nil

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